

2012

NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL

AFFAIRS

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September 2012

INTRODUCTION

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was developed to achieve a greater understanding of students' educational experiences in college by exploring how institutions emphasize effective teaching practices and student engagement in various activities. The final NSSE report consists of five scales called Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice (Benchmarks). Each Benchmark consists of a group of scaled items derived from the NSSE survey. The five Benchmarks are Level of Academic Challenge (LAC), Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL), Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI), Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE), and Supportive Campus Environment (SCE). Toward the end of the survey, a series of Learning Gains items are included in order to provide an assessment of students' perceptions of their learning in college. The items in this section have been organized into three scales which reflect general areas of learning in college.

The following report is a summary of responses for seniors enrolled in the School of Public and Environmental Administration. This report organizes the NSSE items according to scalelets, or clusters of highly related items that measure a specific aspect of the educational experiences of a group of students. Each scalelet is nested under the corresponding Benchmark with which it is associated. The table below depicts the number of scalelets in each benchmark (as well as the learning gains) for senior respondents identified as an "area of strength" (an effect size of 0.2 standard deviations greater than the IUPUI average), "asset to protect" (between 0.05 and 0.2 standard deviations greater than the average), "issue to be mindful of" (between -0.05 and -0.2 standard deviations below IUPUI average) and "opportunity for improvement" (an effect size of 0.2 standard deviations below the IUPUI average or more.)

In Spring semester 2012, a random sample of 3,860 seniors and 2,397 first-year students at IUPUI and IUPUC were invited to complete the original version of NSSE (other students completed the NSSE 2.0 pilot test, for which data is available upon request). A total of 1,043 seniors responded to the survey for a response rate of 27.0%. Of SPEA respondents, 37 were seniors. For further information on NSSE, please contact Steven Graunke in the Office of Information Management and Institutional Research at sgraunke@iupui.edu.

TABLE 1
AREAS OF STRENGTH, ASSETS TO PROTECT, ISSUES TO BE MINDFUL OF, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

	Overall descriptor	Total number of Scalelets	Areas of Strength	Assets to Protect		Issues to be Mindful of	Opportunities for Improvement
Level of Academic Challenge	No label	3	0	1	1	1	0
Active and Collaborative Learning	No label	2	0	0	1	1	0
Student-Faculty Interaction	Issue to be mindful of	2	0	0	0	2	0
Enriching Educational Experiences	No label	3	0	1	0	2	0
Supportive Campus Environment	Asset to protect	2	1	0	1	0	0
Learning Gains		3	0	2	0	0	1

TABLE 2
BENCHMARK, SCALELET, AND LEARNING GAINS SCORES FOR
SENIORS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error	IUPUI Mean	Effect Size
Level of Academic Challenge	36	56.4	13.6	2.26	56.7	-0.02
Writing ^b	35	46.6	13.3	2.25	44.4	0.13
Course Challenge	33	63.6	12.8	2.21	63.9	-0.02
Higher-Order Thinking Skills ^c	35	65.1	16.7	2.82	67.6	-0.14
Active and Collaborative Learning	37	51.8	17.8	2.92	52.4	-0.03
Active Learning	36	52.8	20.5	3.40	53.4	-0.03
Collaborative Learning ^c	35	50.2	18.8	3.17	51.4	-0.06
Student-Faculty Interaction^c	36	36.8	21.8	3.62	39.8	-0.14
Course Interaction ^c	36	46.3	23.4	3.88	50.7	-0.17
Out-of-Class Interaction ^c	33	23.6	22.5	3.91	28.4	-0.19
Enriching Educational Experiences	34	39.1	18.2	3.11	39.8	-0.04
Varied Experiences ^b	32	33.7	20.3	3.58	32.3	0.07
Information Technology ^c	33	76.8	20.5	3.55	77.7	-0.05
Diversity ^c	33	54.2	26.8	4.64	55.8	-0.06
Supportive Campus Environment^b	33	60.3	19.1	3.32	57.0	0.17
Interpersonal Environment ^a	34	75.7	18.0	3.15	71.0	0.24
Support for Student Success	32	43.8	24.8	4.36	42.9	0.04
Gains in Personal and Social Skills^b	33	58.4	26.4	4.57	54.9	0.14
Gains in General Education^b	32	75.8	21.6	3.81	72.8	0.13
Gains in Practical Skills^d	33	67.0	24.3	4.21	72.5	-0.23

^a“Area of strength”

^b“Asset to protect”

^c“Issue to be mindful of”

^d“Opportunity for Improvement”